

Life can throw up a slew of oh-my-god situations when you're least ready for them. Use our handy manual (and some real-girl tips) to get out unruffled!

**Y**eah, we know you're a fun fearless female, with spirit, sass, and a healthy confidence in your abilities to deal with the most challenging curves that life may unexpectedly throw up. But the sassiest of us can still, sometimes, find ourselves a little unnerved when confronted with a sudden crisis that saps us of our spunky spirit and leaves us flummoxed. It might seem difficult to get out of a sticky situation but it's not impossible to find a way to work around it, especially if you have tact and the skill to act sensibly, on reflex, by your side. Whether it's a too-keen boss, or a not-keen-enough ex, the idea is to remember, above all, that you're not alone—life dishes rough edges to every one of us. We can all choose to be damsels in distress to get out of something messy and not worth your time or we can better still, find ways to be smart about the way we deal with it. We ID'd six situations that every girl could well run into—and then hunted out smooth exits that let you cope without losing your sanity, your dignity, and in a couple of situations, your job!

### Your (MARRIED, MALE) Boss Asks You Out to Dinner

#### Your Smooth Exit:

**AMIT SHARMA** This is a really tricky one, unless of course you're willing to lose an otherwise great (we assume) job over it.

# 1

First, play a little dumb. If he's tried the 'let's get together' line, you can deliberately misunderstand and deflect him from the idea in a manner he can't openly contradict. "Actually, it would be great if we got the team together, it's been a while since we all had a team-do. I'll organise it," is an enthusiastic answer that usually works. If this doesn't work, option two is to bring a boyfriend into the picture quite casually. Something like "Love to, but I insist you let me invite you. My

boyfriend has heard so much about you, he's been insisting we meet up for a while, but since you're so busy, I didn't bring it up." Chances are he'll cough up a date and later back off. Still doesn't, and you're pretty certain you can't get out of it without seriously offending him? Accept, but keep these pointers in mind: Dress conservatively, don't let him think you tried too hard for him; meet him for dinner instead of letting him pick you up; and arrange to have your boyfriend (or a male friend pretending to be one) pick you up end of the evening.



## Real Girl Rescues...

*"Veet bails me out of very tricky situations and keeps my skin glowing!"*

I am in the hospitality industry, which means long working hours and being in top shape no matter what goes on in your personal life. In spite of everything and all the effort I put in making sure I look like a million bucks I've always struggled to find a permanent solution for the one drawback I can't seem to find a solution for, until recently of course! Keeping my skin hair-free and smooth all the time was such a hassle before I started using Veet. In just three minutes, it leaves my skin perfectly hair-free and baby soft. I love the lotus-milk and jasmine variant for Normal skin—it makes me feel like a diva in flat three minutes. It's a miracle worker for me and I always carry it in my bag with my makeup essentials. After all, thanks to it I have bailed myself out of very tricky situations at work!

Sticky Situation Alert!

# MAKE A smooth EXIT!

You showed up at work **LOOKING LIKE A SCRUFFED CAT**, and now there's a big presentation in 5 min

**Your Smooth Exit:**

**2** First, head to the washroom for emergency repairs. Wash your face; smooth hair into a ponytail—unwashed, less-than-perfect hair is always better tied back, and neatly pulled back hair, while not glam, is certainly more professional than an unkempt style. Next, grab some makeup (borrow from a colleague if carrying none)—don't bother with elaborate

procedures; what counts at short notice are obvious appearances. Mascara opens out the eyes and makes you look alert; if there's no blush, swipe gloss or lipstick on cheeks and blend madly for a dash of colour; then slick one coat onto your lips. Add a spritz of deo, and you're good to go. For future reference, stash the following five in a handy drawer: an emergency makeup kit (blush, lipstick, mascara); a smart LBD; a pair of black heels. You'll be permanently prepared for whatever comes up.

You just arrived at a friend's bash and your ex (and his very hot new GF) are bang ahead of you

*Your Smooth Exit:*

**3** If they haven't seen you yet, give yourself a chance to gather your (frazzled) nerves—find the washroom, or fall behind if there are people between them and you. If you're meeting a friend who's already at the party, call him or her to come outside to meet you, so you can walk in together. Alone? Strike up a casual convo with someone entering the party at the same time. You'll walk in with much less consciousness if you're mid-conversation. None of this works? Take a deep breath, throw back shoulders and walk in, starting from the other end of the room. Don't avoid him deliberately—at some stage, acknowledge his presence across the room if you catch his eye.

Real Girl Rescues...

*"Veet transformed my skin from ordinary to beautiful!"*



I was just about getting out of work after a late shift when my husband called to tell me about a party that we had to attend later in the night. I had recently bought a fabulous off-shoulder dress which I wanted to wear for him but sighed thinking of my arms that were not waxed and were very dry. There was no time for a quickie at the parlour so I speed dialed a close friend who suggested I pick up Veet on my way back home since it even had a special variant for dry skin. Exactly what I needed—It just took three minutes before I rushed into the shower. Veet transformed my skin from ordinary to beautiful.



*"Veet worked wonders for my delicate skin."*

I was excited about a fancy meal my fiance was taking me out for but my excitement went for a toss, the minute I saw the pokey stubble on my arms and legs. I have extremely sensitive skin so I have to be extra cautious about what I use. Seeing my predicament, my sister suggested Veet. It works wonders for really sensitive skin like mine. In minutes, my skin was smooth, soft and beautiful. It turned out to be one of our most memorable dates ever.



**4** YOU WENT ON A BLIND DATE, (And He Sucks!)

**Your Smooth Exit:**

The oldest tricks in the book still work; excuse yourself to go to the washroom, call a close friend, and beg her to 'accidentally' run into you wherever you are, and then join you later. She can't come over? Have her call and pretend to be a colleague with a work crisis that can't be tackled without you being physically present; make your excuses to the Devastatingly Dull Dude, and scoot before he tries to pull you into a conversation

again. Call a radio cab so he can't insist on driving you home or to work (this way you won't give him a chance of even attempting to exchange phone numbers). What not to do, however paralysed with frustration you are: drink yourself silly out of boredom (you need your wits about you even more if you're with someone you dislike!); or eye a guy at the bar shamelessly—that's just rude, and unworthy of gorgeous you.

**5** You called in sick to work and hit the mall, only to RUN INTO A COLLEAGUE

**Your Smooth Exit:**

Tricky as hell, and what to do depends on how well you think you know the colleague you've run into. Think you can trust her? Fess up that you ditched work under false pretences, but make up a situation that she'll buy—it's your mom's birthday tomorrow and you needed the day to plan a surprise party; or you had a terrible spat with your guy and just couldn't focus on work. Don't think you can trust her? Make polite convo, then ditch the mall and head to the office. When you get in, ask your boss for a couple of minutes of her time, then 'fess up with the same reason above—but before she has a chance to hear it from the colleague. Say you needed some time to yourself, apologise for lying but explain you were feeling lousy/pressured, and that as soon as you got your act together you brought yourself in to work. You'll lose the potential day off, sure, but you'll save the reputation, and that's a big deal.

YOU RIPPED A HEM IN THE TAXI, On Your Way to a Do

**Your Smooth Exit:**

Safety pins are obviously a girl's best friend, but we assume you don't necessarily have one handy. If you have either glue stick, cellotape or a hairpin handy, you should be able to deal with the rip for the moment. None? Head to a petrol station that has a convenience store attached, and try and grab pins. None around? Pull into any luxe hotel enroute to where you're going. Ask the concierge at the hotel for assistance—he should be able to cough up everything from tape to safety pins and even thread and needle. Even that isn't possible? Consider ripping the hem out all the way around, especially if it's a longish dress and then edges can't really be seen clearly. Won't work? Call or text a friend at the do you're heading for to find a pin and meet you outside with it!

AMIT SHARMA